

1 IN THE CLAIMS

1 1-2. (canceled).

1 3. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 6,
2 wherein said base of said bracket has a said pair of
3 through bores; and
4 wherein said base of said bracket is for affixing to the
5 substrate.

1 4-5. (canceled).

1 6. (currently amended) Joints for constructing a shear
2 wall, comprising:
3 a bracket;
4 wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear
5 wall;
6 wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to
7 a substrate; and
8 wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said
9 shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:
10 a) a base; and
11 b) a pair of side walls;
12 wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against
13 the substrate;
14 wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of
15 longitudinal edges; and
16 wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend
17 upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said
18 base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said
19 bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in
20 lateral cross section, wherein each side wall of said

Paper No.: 5

S.N.: 10/662670

Agt. Doc. No.: NASR64A Page 2 of 10

21 bracket has a plurality of through bores; further
22 comprising a track wall;
23 wherein said track wall consists of:
24 A) a base; and
25 B) a pair of side walls;
26 wherein said base of said track wall has a pair of
27 longitudinal edges;
28 wherein said base of said track wall has a pair of
29 through bores;
30 wherein said pair of through bores in said track
31 wall align with a said pair of through bores in
32 said base of said bracket; and
33 wherein said pair of side walls of said track wall
34 extend upwardly from said pair of longitudinal
35 edges of said base of said track wall,
36 respectively, so as to allow said track wall to
37 have a generally and substantially U-shape in
38 lateral cross section, wherein said track wall sits
39 in said bracket so as to allow said bracket to
40 capture said track wall.

1 7. (previously presented) The joints as defined in claim
2 6, wherein said base of said track wall abuts against
3 said base of said bracket.

1 8. (previously presented) The joints as defined in claim
2 6, wherein said side walls of said track wall abut
3 against said side walls of said bracket, respectively.

1 9. (previously presented) The joints as defined in claim
2 6; further comprising a base plate;
3 wherein said base plate sits in said bracket.

Paper No.: 5

S.N.: 10/662670

Agt. Doc. No.: NASR64A Page 3 of 10

1 10. (original) The joints as defined in claim 9, wherein
2 said base plate abuts against said base of said track
3 wall.

1 11. (original) The joints as defined in claim 9, wherein
2 said base plate has a pair of through bores;
3 wherein said pair of through bores in said base plate
4 align with said pair of through bores in said base of
5 said track wall, respectively; and
6 wherein said pair of through bores in said base plate
7 align with said pair of through bores in said base of
8 said bracket, respectively.

1 12. (original) The joints as defined in claim 11; further
2 comprising a stud;
3 wherein said stud extends from said bracket.

1 13. (original) The joints as defined in claim 12, wherein
2 said stud has an end;
3 wherein said end of said stud abuts against said pair of
4 side walls of said bracket;
5 wherein said end of said stud is affixed to said pair of
6 side walls of said bracket;
7 wherein said end of said stud abuts against said base of
8 said track wall when said base plate is not present so
9 as to allow said base of said track wall to distribute
10 the load of said stud to said bracket; and
11 wherein said end of said stud abuts against said base
12 plate when said base plate is present so as to allow said
13 base plate to distribute the load of said stud to said
14 track wall and ultimately to said bracket.

Paper No.: 5

S.N.: 10/662670

Agt. Doc. No.: NASR64A Page 4 of 10

1 14. (cancelled)

1 15. (previously presented) Joints for constructing a shear
2 wall, comprising:
3 a bracket;
4 wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear
5 wall;
6 wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to
7 a substrate; and
8 wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said
9 shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:
10 a) a base; and
11 b) a pair of side walls;
12 wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against
13 the substrate;
14 wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of
15 longitudinal edges; and
16 wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend
17 upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said
18 base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said
19 bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in
20 lateral cross section; further comprising at least two
21 diagonal braces;
22 wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend
23 diagonally outwardly from said bracket, wherein each of
24 said at least two diagonal braces abuts against a
25 respective side wall of said bracket; and
26 wherein each of said at least two diagonal braces is
27 affixed to said respective side wall of said bracket.

1 16. (Previously presented) Joints for constructing a shear
2 wall, comprising:

Paper No.: 5

S.N.: 10/662670

Agt. Doc. No.: NASR64A Page 5 of 10

3 a bracket;
4 wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear
5 wall;
6 wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to
7 a substrate; and
8 wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said
9 shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:
10 a) a base; and
11 b) a pair of side walls;
12 wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against
13 the substrate;
14 wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of
15 longitudinal edges; and
16 wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend
17 upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said
18 base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said
19 bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in
20 lateral cross section; further comprising at least two
21 diagonal braces;
22 wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend
23 diagonally outwardly from said bracket, wherein each of
24 said at least two diagonal braces is flat.

1 17. (cancelled)

1 18. (previously presented) Joints for constructing a shear
2 wall, comprising:
3 a bracket;
4 wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear
5 wall;
6 wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to
7 a substrate; and

Paper No.: 5

S.N.: 10/662670

Agt. Doc. No.: NASR64A Page 6 of 10

8 wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said
9 shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:
10 a) a base; and
11 b) a pair of side walls;
12 wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against
13 the substrate;
14 wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of
15 longitudinal edges; and
16 wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend
17 upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said
18 base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said
19 bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in
20 lateral cross section; further comprising at least two
21 diagonal braces;
22 wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend
23 diagonally outwardly from said bracket, wherein each of
24 said at least two diagonal brace has an end; and
25 wherein said end of each of said at least two diagonal
26 braces has a plurality of through bores, wherein said
27 plurality of through bores in said end of each of said
28 at least two diagonal braces align with corresponding
29 through bores in said respective side wall of said
30 bracket.

1 19. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 6,
2 wherein one joint is an intermediate base joint;
3 wherein the substrate is a concrete foundation;
4 wherein said track wall extends outwardly from both ends
5 of said base of said bracket;
6 wherein ~~a said~~ pair of through bores in said base of said
7 bracket, said pair of through bores in said track wall,
8 and 2 pair of through bores in a base plate receive a

Paper No.: 5

S.N.: 10/662670

Agt. Doc. No.: NASR64A Page 7 of 10

9 pair of anchor bolts extending upwardly out of the
10 concrete foundation;
11 wherein said anchor bolts have ultimately ~~receive~~ a pair
12 of nuts, received thereon respectively;
13 wherein a stud extends centrally upwardly from said base
14 plate so as to be straddled by said pair of nuts; and
15 wherein said at least two diagonal braces are four, a
16 pair of each extending from each side wall of said
17 bracket, diagonally outwardly in opposite directions.

1 20. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 6,
2 wherein one joint is an end base joint;
3 wherein the substrate is a concrete foundation;
4 wherein said track wall extends outwardly from an
5 outermost end of said base of said bracket;
6 wherein only an outermost one of a said pair of through
7 bores in said base of said bracket, an aligned one of
8 said pair of through bores in said track wall, and an
9 aligned one of said pair of through bores in said base
10 plate receive an anchor bolt extending upwardly out of
11 the concrete foundation that has ultimately ~~receives~~ a
12 nut received thereon;
13 wherein said stud extends upwardly from an outermost end
14 of said base plate; and
15 wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend
16 diagonally inwardly.

1 21. (previously presented) The joints as defined in claim
2 6, wherein one joint is a ceiling and floor joint;
3 wherein the substrate is an upper header and a lower
4 header that are spaced-apart by floor joists and a stud;
5 wherein two brackets are utilized;

Paper No.: 5

S.N.: 10/662670

Agt. Doc. No.: NASR64A Page 8 of 10

6 wherein said base of one bracket is for abutting against
7 said upper header;
8 wherein said base of the other bracket is for abutting
9 against the lower header;
10 wherein said other bracket is in alignment with said one
11 bracket;
12 wherein two track walls are utilized;
13 wherein one track wall extends outwardly from both ends
14 of said base of said one bracket;
15 wherein the other track wall extends outwardly from both
16 ends of said base of said other bracket;
17 wherein said through bores in said base of said one track
18 wall, said pair of through bores in said base of said one
19 bracket, a pair of through bores in the upper header, a
20 pair of through bores in the lower header, said pair of
21 through bores in said base of said other bracket, and
22 said pair of through bores in said base of said other
23 track wall receive a pair of through bolts;
24 wherein two studs are utilized;
25 wherein one stud extends centrally upwardly from said
26 base of said one track wall so as to be straddled by said
27 pair of through bolts;
28 wherein said one stud is aligned with the stud of the
29 substrate;
30 wherein the other stud depends centrally from said base
31 of said other track wall so as to be straddled by said
32 pair of through bolts;
33 wherein the other stud is aligned with the stud of the
34 substrate; and
35 wherein said at least two diagonal braces are eight, a
36 pair of each extend from each side wall of each bracket,
37 diagonally outwardly in opposite directions.

Paper No.: 5

S.N.: 10/662670

Agt. Doc. No.: NASR64A Page 9 of 10